

Subject: FW: Wanted you to see

From: Verhoff, Geoff

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 10:17 PM

To:

Cc: Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana

Subject: Wanted you to see

I wanted you to see Ambassador Al Otaiba's op-ed in today's WSJ on the UAE's first official and successful fuel load into Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant! As you know, the UAE also recently celebrated the ten year anniversary of the US-UAE 123 in January so this is big news all around, both for the country and the US-UAE partnership.

A Successful Mideast Nuclear Deal - WSJ

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-successful-mideast-nuclear-deal-11583367406>

A Successful Mideast Nuclear Deal

The United Arab Emirates finishes loading fuel in its new civilian nuclear power plant.

By

Yousef Al Otaiba

March 4, 2020 7:16 pm ET



The Barakah nuclear plant in Abu Dhabi, March 2018.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH AL-JUNAIBI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

The Middle East nuclear agreement is working well. It contains the strongest commitments ever agreed to for nonproliferation and transparency and no pathway to weaponization. No, not *that* nuclear deal. On March 3, the United Arab Emirates announced it had finished loading fuel into Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. When all four units become operational, the plant will provide up to 25% of the U.A.E.'s electricity with zero carbon emissions.

The seeds for this ambitious project were planted 10 years ago, when the U.S. and U.A.E. signed the strongest bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement in history. The deal wasn't a sure thing. As negotiations progressed during the final year of President George W. Bush's administration, the nonproliferation community was concerned. Skeptics feared the Middle East was ill-suited for a peaceful nuclear program. Arms-control experts argued that if Iran used its program as cover for building a nuclear bomb, the U.A.E. could too.

Rejecting any interest in nuclear weapons, the U.A.E. voluntarily made the strongest possible nonproliferation commitments, pledging to forgo domestic enrichment and reprocessing of nuclear material. There was no hesitation in acceding to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol, allowing for short-notice inspections of any nuclear facility at any time. Later termed the

“gold standard,” these historic and binding guarantees represented a new and innovative solution to a longstanding problem created by the inherent dual-use nature of some elements of the nuclear fuel-supply chain.

The agreement was signed at the end of the Bush administration and endorsed by the Obama administration. Skillfully shepherded through congressional review by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman, the agreement entered into force in December 2009.

The U.A.E.’s voluntary commitments significantly exceed those extracted from Iran in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Tehran insisted on maintaining a pathway to enrich uranium domestically and to develop advanced centrifuge technologies—capabilities first developed clandestinely in defiance of binding United Nations Security Council resolutions. Iran also demanded that the most significant restrictions lapse in January 2026. These demands reveal Iran’s real long-term aspirations.

Iran could send no clearer signal of peaceful intentions than signing on to the same voluntary commitments as the U.A.E. The international community should insist on this as a precondition of a renewed nuclear pact with Iran, which would create a virtuous nuclear pathway. Iran could then modernize its nuclear-energy program and boost its economic prosperity. Barakah will supply 6 gigawatts of low-carbon electricity in the next few years. The 45-year old Iranian program limps along with a single, nonstandard 915-megawatt plant.

Peaceful nuclear technology is critical to the world’s energy mix, particularly now that lower-carbon alternatives are required. But a greener world shouldn’t become a pretext for a more dangerous one. The U.S.-U.A.E. nuclear deal has worked. New and better rules have delivered a new huge source of clean power and reduced the risk of nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Otaiba is the United Arab Emirates’ ambassador to the U.S.

These materials are being distributed by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP on behalf of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Geoff K. Verhoff

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Subject: FW: For FARA/March 5 UAE outreach

From: Friedman, Francine

Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 2:42 PM

Subject: ICYMI - A Successful Mideast Nuclear Deal (March 4 WSJ)

Good afternoon -

Wanted to flag for you Ambassador Al Otaiba's op-ed in yesterday's Wall Street Journal on the UAE's first official and successful fuel load into Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.

As you may know, the UAE also recently celebrated the ten year anniversary of the US-UAE 123 in January so this is big news all around, both for the country and the US-UAE partnership.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or would like any additional information from the Embassy on this or other UAE-related issues.

Best,
Francine

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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-successful-mideast-nuclear-deal-11583367406>

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Francine E. Friedman

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